

Galina Grigorjeva

Snow Falls (Падает снег)

“Pure art does not interest me at all. I am interested in where we are going and I am interested in the Spirit who gives us the impulse. We can view art as a cross, where the horizontal stands for the artist’s work and the vertical is art’s message. Art must take us higher.”

In the interview with Jaan-Eik Tulve for the Muusika magazine in 2014



PHOTO: GALINA PARMASK

“**Snow Falls**” (*Падает снег*) is the concluding part of Grigorjeva’s choral cycle *Nox Vitae (Night of the Life/ Ночь жизни)*. Sung in Russian, the choral cycle draws on the symbolic poems of the late-19th/ early 20th century Russian poet Innokenti Annenski (1856–1909).

Annenski’s texts blend melancholic and painful states of mind; the pervasive subjects of his oeuvre are the loneliness of human beings amidst social and cultural mirages and the Great Secret of nature and love. In the song “Snow Falls”, the images of death and love intermingle.

Performed by **Estonian National Male Choir**, conductor **Mikk Üleoja**
Recorded in 2012, Estonia Concert Hall

Galina Grigorjeva was born in the Crimea, the Ukraine, in 1962. She studied at a Simferopol music school and Odessa Conservatory, and graduated from St. Petersburg Conservatory under Prof. Juri Falik. After marrying an Estonian, moved to Estonia in the 1990s where she furthered her studies with Prof. Lepo Sumera at the Estonian Academy of Music. At present, Grigorjeva is a freelance composer.

Her music is tightly linked to Slavic secular music as well as early European polyphony.

Grigorjeva’s works have been performed by many well-known choirs, ensembles and orchestras, including Estonian Philharmonic Chamber

Choir (conductor Paul Hillier), chamber orchestra Kremerata Baltica (artistic director Gidon Kremer), Russian Patriarchate Choir of Moscow (conductor Anatoli Grindenko), ensemble Kroumata, Raschèr Saxophone Quartet, Hortus Musicus and others. In 2003 Grigorjeva was awarded the Heino Eller Music Prize, and in 2004 and 2013 she received the Annual Prize of the Endowment for Music of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia. She is also a 2014 recipient of the Order of the White Star Fourth Class from the President of the Estonian Republic. At the Estonian Music Awards 2015, Galina Grigorjeva’s CD “In Paradisum” won in the category of Classical Album.

Падает снег

Падает снег,
Мутный, и белый, и долгий,
Падает снег,
Заметая дороги,
Засыпая могилы,
Падает снег...
Белые влажные звезды!
Я так люблю вас,
Тихие гости оврагов!

Холод и нега забвенья
Сердцу так сладки...
О белые звезды... Зачем же,
Ветер, зачем ты свеваешь,
Жгучий мучительный ветерь,
С думы и черной и тяжелой,
Точно могильная насыпь,
Белые блески мечты?...
В поле зачем их уносишь?

Если б заснуть,
Но не навеки,
Если б заснуть
Так, чтобы после проснуться,
Только под небом лазурным...
Новым, счастливым, любимым...

Sajab lumi

(Innokenti Annenski, translated by Maarja Kangro)

Snow falls,
turbid, and white, and long-lasting,
snow falls,
blocking the roads,
covering the graves,
snow falls...
White, moist stars!
Love you so much,
you guests of quiet precipices!

Cold and the tenderness of oblivion
art so sweet to the heart...
O, white stars... Why,
wind, stinging, hurtful wind,
why do you blow away
from the thought so black and heavy
like a burial mound,
the white spangles of dreams?...
Why do you carry them off to the field?

If one is to fall to sleep,
yet not for ever,
if one is to fall to sleep
to wake up again later,
only under a bright-blue sky...
Under a new, happy, beloved sky.